

Research Committee Meeting
Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission

Date: Monday, December 21, 2020

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30pm

Location: **Virtual meeting:** Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/nht-bxzh-wqr
Join by phone
(US) +1 240-360-1102 (PIN: 264657180)

Attendance: Chavis, Stevenson, Haley, Armenti, Klugh, Davis, Barnes

Meeting started at 12pm

Updates:

Klugh – Public History graduate students at UMBC have submitted a thorough report concerning Anne Arundel County lynching. Students will be encouraged to submit the report directly to the State Archives.

Stevenson – A UMES CRJU graduate student researched lynching in Somerset County

Armenti – Noted that the Carroll County Coalition has student working with them

Chavis - Received Frederick County research on lynching by Chief Historian (National Capital Region of the Park Service), Dean Herrin (has been submitted to the state archives)
- received a deposit from the Nabb Center as well – included the only known photo of William Andrews.

Research Committee structure/leadership/role:

Klugh – brought up idea of merging Research and Reconciliation committees – under Commissioner Chavis’s leadership. Decision to maintain separate committees but align work more closely.

Chavis – Reported on Northeast Law School conference and potential additional research on cases that they feel meet our definition beyond those that we have identified. There are limitations on what they can share as their focus is on reparations and restorative justice (they are representing clients).

County Coalitions

Klugh and Davis – Spoke with a representative from the Montgomery County Coalition. They have done exhaustive research but would like help with genealogy to identify descendants.

Barnes – Coalitions need clarity on the public hearings and what the commission has to offer

Armenti – Coalitions could also use clarification on restorative justice

Charles – Perhaps a workshop to explain what restorative justice looks like

Armenti – A framework for research that we could pass along

Klugh – Shared and asked for feedback on document outlining research strategy (appendix one). This document could eventually be shared with Coalitions.

Chavis – discussed reconciliation versus restorative justice – reconciliation suggests coming back to a friendship or harmony. Before we can get there – Restorative justice must be centered and addressing the systemic inequality must be centered. We cannot have reconciliation before we acknowledge that systemic inequality framed our nation's structure.

Haley – toward the end of January – time for the workshop on Restorative Justice for Commission members and Coalition members

Grant Timeline

Chavis – Noted that workshops are scheduled in the grant timeline (February, March, and April); asked if there will be a time soon when the State Archives will allow in-person, socially distanced researchers.

Davis – Stated that it is unknown when the archives will allow in-person research. We may need to consider Hybrid options for starting research

Meeting Schedule

Agreed that the Research Committee will regularly meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, 11am. For January (since the 3rd Monday is a holiday) the meeting will occur on January 19 (Tuesday)

Adjournment: 1:30pm

Appendix 1: Approach to Case Research and Analysis

(For Each Case)

- I. Communicate/Partner with Local Coalition Liaisons to gather information
 - A. Identify liaison for research

 - II. Identify relevant Historical Societies and archives for potential information and/or materials

 - III. Review Judge Lynch's Court materials
 - A. Inventory and assess existing information available on the site
 1. Extrapolate information from available materials
 - a. Rationale and general narrative for the lynching
 - b. Identify various individuals associated with the incident (alleged victims, aggressors, lawyers, states attorneys, family members who might have given testimony, ...)
 - c. Newspaper articles – identify trends in reporting (existing articles only come from the State's existing collection)
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- IV. Gather Additional Information
 - A. Additional newspaper sources
 1. Seek additional reporting from out-of-state newspapers and other potential in-state sources
 2. Identify trends in reporting between papers (i.e. - out-of-state vs. in-state, African American vs. White or another ethnicity, local vs. state-wide)

 - B. Explore and identify political implications within local and state politics

 - C. Identify and gather relevant Government / Court documents
 1. A.G. reports

 - D. Review Death Certificate
 1. Verify race of victim
 2. Manner of death reported
 3. Identify location of burial
 4. If possible, original document to be posted on website

 - E. Review Coroner's report
 1. Record cause of death and any other relevant information
 2. If possible, original document to be posted on website

 - F. Gather/Copy photographs and any other ephemera
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- V. Oral History
 - A. Identify potential narrators for oral history interviews

VI. Template for writing report on each case

- A. Summary of lynching
 - 1. Description of incident
 - a. Accusation
 - b. How lynching was carried out
 - B. Biographical information
 - 1. occupation
 - 2. parents, siblings
 - 3. residence
 - 4. education
 - C. Societal context
 - 1. What historical era, i.e. Reconstruction, Great Depression, Jim Crow, New Deal, and how this era influenced/allowed or regarded lynching
 - 2. Other mores: sharecropping, apprenticeships, convict leasing
 - D. What the appropriate legal process should have been
 - E. Extra-legal activity that occurred
 - F. Failure and/or complicity of public officials
 - G. Summary of newspaper reporting
 - H. Impact and implications
 - I. Note any memorial activity or physical monument honoring the victim
 - J. Bibliography of writing on the lynching
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